The Church of God
EVANGEL

Vol. 34 MAY 15, 1943 No. 11

Will The Church of God Escape the Great Tribulation?

D. C. BOATWRIGHT

THIS perplexing question has been in the minds of men for years, and the subject has been debated pro and con. But the highest authority we can get on any subject is the Bible. Let us see what the Bible has to say about the Church and its future.

Before we go into this message, allow me to bring to your mind the fact that there is a difference between tribulation and the great tribulation. The people of God have endured tribulation as long as time has been (tribulation means trouble). For an example note Rom. 5:3, 4, "And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope." The word "tribulation" means "affliction" here.

Again, in John 16:33, "These things I have spoken to you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." We need not expect anything from the world but trouble. The good things we receive in this life do not come from the world but from God. James 1:17, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above."

GREAT TRIBULATION

The word "tribulation" means "trouble," and Rev. 7:14 speaks of the great tribulation or time of great trouble. The great tribulation is spoken of as the time of Jacob's trouble. Jer. 30:7. This great time of trouble will take place during the seventieth week prophesied by Dan. 9:24. Sixty-nine of these weeks have been fulfilled up to the death of Christ, and are known to Bible students as weeks of years. There was a gap between the sixty-nine weeks and the seventieth or last week, and that last week is to be seven years and will cover the entire time of the Gentile Age. After this Jerusalem will never again be trodden down of the Gentiles.

REASON

Now let me give you reason number one why the Church will escape this terrible time of trouble. It is to be a time of trouble such as never was since the world began. And God declares in His Word, Rom. 5:9, "Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved FROM WRATH through him." Note in connection 1 Thess. 1:10, "And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the WRATH TO COME." Salvation means deliverance not only from sin but from the wrath to come. Note Rev. 14:10, speaking of those who had received the mark of the beast, "The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God." But, brother, God declared that Jesus delivered me from this wrath through His blood. Thank God for the blood of Christ. Let us always live under its cleansing flow. The Word says He will deliver us from the "wrath to come," future tense. Rev. 14:19 speaks of more of this wrath, also Rev. 15:7; Rev. 16:1, but we need not fret ourselves about this wrath if we are in Christ, as He has delivered us for ever.

Now we are ready for reason number two. In Luke 21:36 we read these words, "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man." The true Church is watching. Many have fallen asleep at their post of duty but I repeat, the true child of God is awake, straining his eyes to see the signs of the times. 1 Thess. 5:6, "Let us not sleep as do others." A good way to stay awake in these sleepy times is to be much in prayer. The man who is watching and praying in these times of trouble will be worthy to "escape." Note he said to escape. Escape what? The wrath to come on this world soon.

The man who is not praying is a man not worthy to escape. Someone asked what the requirement was to go in the rapture. I say that we must be a praying people to escape all these things that we see coming on the earth. "Prayer will either drive sin out of one's life or sin will drive prayer out." Those with sin in their lives are not worthy.

Now reason number three. The true Church is to be taken out of this world of trouble.

THE OPEN DOOR

We believe that we are in the Philadelphian period now and that the rapture or catching away of the people of God will take place during this time. Our reason for saying this is Rev. 3:10, "Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I will also keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth (or from the wrath to come)." Rev. 3:8, "I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it." This promise was given to no other church mentioned. Some have said that this is the door of salvation, but the door of salvation has ever been open and no man has ever been able to close this door, and it was open during all the other church dispensations.

The open door that has been set before the Philadelphian people is the door of the rapture left open for the Church to escape through during the time of trouble. Brother, the outlook may not be so good. Things are closing in tighter all the time. More restrictions are being placed on us every day, and sometimes we wonder how we can carry on. But here is hope, "the uplook is fine." As the darkness increases on earth it only makes the light that shines from heaven become brighter.

Reason number four. The saints will be in heaven before the white horse of Rev. 6:1, 2 comes on the scene (antichrist).

THE LITTLE BOOK

In Rev. 5:8 we read, "And when he had taken the book, the four beasts (living ones) and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb." These twenty-four elders are none other than the raptured saints. For proof that this is so note verse 9, "And they sung a new song (who can sing a new song but the redeemed), saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation." For whom did He shed His blood? Note Acts 20:28, "The church of God which he hath purchased with his own blood." This is a symbolical expression, when He spoke of the rap-

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NOTES FROM MY LETTERS

By J. H. WALKER,
General Overseer

TELEGRAM

Just closed the convention in Montana and had a God-sent one. Orphanage offering $100. We were made to sit together in heavenly places.—Ray T. Hill, state overseer.

(The state convention mission offering of Montana is by far the greatest in the history of the Church of God in that state.—J. H. Walker.)

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TELEGRAM

Lenoir, North Carolina, district convention great success. Fellowship and unity unexcelled. Mission offering $1,218.45. Broke all records for district offerings in North Carolina.—H. L. Chesser, state overseer; George D. Lemons, district overseer.

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Spring has brought new hopes and new faith. The work in the State has picked up practically everywhere. We are getting openings now in various cities in the State. A couple of churches that are already organized have invited us over to talk things over with them concerning coming into the Church of God. We are about to open the second church here in New York City. I wish that you could see this nice church and the fine group of people that we have here. Some are good musicians and they make up our band here. It was a miracle the way God got into this revival and brought people out with many hungry for the old-time services. During the revival there were various Church of God people from other parts of the country who happened to be in the city at that time, some from West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Florida, Texas, and New Jersey. We now have forty-two members in New York City, counting transfers. May the Lord continue to bless and help you.—Your brother in Christ, Roland Verrico, state overseer.

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Just closed the district convention at Shepherds Fold. It was one of the best in the history of the State. We had a wonderful service Saturday night. It rained hard Sunday and hindered quite a bit; however, the sun came out around eleven o'clock, and we had a nice dinner on the ground. The mission offering was $400, and the orphanage offering $80. There were twenty-four Evangel subscriptions and several renewals, and 500 coupons for the orphanage. If it had not rained, we would have got at least $500 in our mission offering. These great results were possible because of the splendid work done by the ministers—Brother Sumner, Brother Fowler, and Brother Glass—and their respective churches. Praise God for these good Church of God workers!—W. C. Byrd, state overseer.

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES OF BIBLE TRAINING SCHOOL AND COLLEGE, SEVIERVILLE, TENN.

The Church of God Bible Training School and College announces its twenty-fifth annual Commencement Exercises on May 23, 26, and 27. In many ways this term has far exceeded all previous years and plans for the greatest program in the history of the school are being made.

The following is an outline of the programs:

Sunday, May 23

9:00 a. m. BACCALAUREATE SERVICE

Wednesday, May 26

10:30 a. m. FINAL CONSECRATION SERVICE for Student Body

8:00 p. m. CONCERT ..... Departments of Music and Speech

Section I—V for VICTORY

Star-Spangled Banner ..... Congregation
Salute to Flag
Songs ..... Girls' Glee Club
Tribute to Ex-Students in Service
Prayer ..... Rev. Zeno C. Tharp
Play: *This Night Shall Pass* ..... Speech Club

Section II—Songs of Praise ..... Boys' Glee Club

Section III—THE OLD HYMNS

Reading: *I Love the Old Hymns* ..... Harold Cato
Songs ..... Selected Choir
Reading: *The Last Hymn* ..... Mary E. Harrison

Section IV—Instrumental Selections

Section V—Negro Spirituals ..... Mixed Chorus

Thursday, May 27

9:45 a. m. COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

Processional
Alma Mater ..... Student Body
Commencement Address ..... F. W. Lemons, School Board Member
Presentation of honors and diplomas ..... Rev. Zeno C. Tharp
Junior College ..... Response, Beatrice Coley, Valedictorian
School of Business ..... Response, Marian Smith, Valedictorian
Academy ..... Response, Claude Phillips, Valedictorian
Christian Workers' Division Response, Claude Phillips, Valedictorian

2:00 p. m. SINGING CONVENTION

4:00 p. m. FACULTY RECEPTION for Parents in College Library

8:00 p. m. SENIOR PLAY—*"CECILIA"*

The Senior Class has decided to turn back the pages of Church history and view the life of Saint Cecilia, one of the most widely known of all the Christian martyrs. The play moves steadily forward through her trials to the climax wherein she must choose between her religion and idolatry.

NOTICES

To all concerned, the Wyoming state convention will convene in Casper, Wyo., May 28-30. We extend a cordial invitation to everyone. Try to be with us. We are expecting a great convention. Brother R. P. Johnson will be the principal speaker.—R. H. Klaudt, overseer of Wyoming, 311 Coffeen Ave., Sheridan, Wyo.

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To anyone who has friends or relatives working on defense jobs in this city, send me their address. The Church of God is located at 1762 Dayson St. Those on defense work or others who are interested, we give you a hearty welcome to worship with us. —Miss Armeline N. Cousineau, pastor, 530 Marquette Ave., Muskegon, Mich.

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LOOSED FROM MY BONDS

By R. H. WINANS

"As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings; So the Lord alone did lead him," Deut. 32:11, 12.

How appropriate is this portion of Holy Writ to my own experience as I now find myself identified with the Church of God of which Brother Milligan is pastor, after being with the Church of God Reformation Movement, of Anderson, Indiana, since I was first saved back in 1912 and being ordained by them to preach the gospel several years ago and having pastored two congregations, giving all my time to that work.

I am indeed amazed as I now think of how I, among my ministerial brethren, spoke against any people who spoke in tongues, and warned our people to avoid such as being, in many instances, of the devil. But in spite of all those warnings, we were losing some of our ministers and others who were dissatisfied with such powerless and unblessed services where man's attainments and the honors of man were so exalted. Truly we were a people spoken of in God's Word as "ever learning but never able to come to a knowledge of the truth."

Praise to our God, He began to loose me from the binding chains that had so entangled me, as He did the three Hebrew children who were loosed from their bonds by the fiery furnace. God took me into the fire of affliction. (Oh, how it hurt me! Oh, how hot was that fire!) My wife was the first to become fatally stricken and I watched her slip away from me farther day by day and we prayed and made our plans for her home going to ever be with her Lord. Then it seemed that everything I undertook failed and cost me more money than I had. Friends forsook me. My car broke down. I lost my glasses in Lake Michigan in a baptismal service. My only son left home. As I struggled on, wondering just what God was trying to work out in my life, finally sick at heart and discouraged I resigned my pastorate and returned to Detroit, hoping to regain my health and rebuild my life.

Jesus promised that when He the Spirit of truth is come He will guide you into all truth and righteousness, and He first put a deep hunger in my soul for a deeper experience and I began to notice that those Pentecostal people, whom I had spoken so against, evidently had a joy and loved to pray

and praise their Lord in a way I had never known. So I began to attend their meetings and soon stated that they had something which I wanted and was determined to have for myself. After tarrying for the Holy Ghost baptism I received the Holy Ghost and began to speak in tongues, the 20th of December, 1942, and the Lord has given me joy and satisfaction such as I have never known previous to this blessed gift which was bestowed on me. And the Lord has healed me and given me a precious Christian wife and three lovely girls to bless my life and I am confident that the Lord will again place me in the ministry to preach His glorious gospel with power.

As I write these few lines we are in the midst of the most wonderful revival here at the East Detroit congregation which I have ever had the opportunity to attend, with Brother Davis, of Georgia, the evangelist. The saints are being blessed in a way I have read about, but have never seen until now. Souls are being saved, some are receiving the baptism of the Holy Ghost, and I am wondering if I will be able to stay down here on earth long enough to again preach the gospel, for it seems like God is going to take us all up to glory. Praise His holy name!

Brethren, pray for me, that the Lord will make the remainder of my life and ministry the most blessed and fruitful that I have ever had.

THE FACT OF IT

J. J. YORK

THE world's nightmare is on, who can doubt it? The nations of the world are as a checkerboard. The wisdom of man and Satan are the players and every issue of our daily papers record their moves. One moment that old serpent and wisdom of man are in embrace, showering each other with their caresses and honeyed words, entering into leagues and contracts—strange things for lovers to do. Next, the papers tell us, the two lovers are piling up at each other's right hand a great store of hair-raising, death-dealing devices, and from their lips come forth bitterness and fearful threats. Soon the fight is on, and they are standing knee-deep in the blood of our sons and daughters. This is the checkerboard scene.

But we must remember that man's wisdom can never beat the devil. The world is in a ripening process but we of the world so often revert to that old-time argument that nothing alarming is in all these things and all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation. That argument has been in the stamp of unbelief, because it is difficult for unbelieving man to be more up-to-date than God. In 2 Peter 3:4, the apostle prophesied that men would say all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation. Mark you, these are words put into the mouth of the unbelieving, misinformed citizen of this world system, and some church members. They are saying it today, but they are wrong. It is but another bit of ignorance added to the large catalog of human vagaries, because all things do not continue as they were. We can now see a ripening process going on throughout the world, politically, socially, economically and morally. A picture is given by Paul of the last days, in 2 Tim. 3, in the midst of which he says: "But evil men shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived." Many other scriptures may be added to prove to the open mind that there is a ripening process as things on earth move toward a consummation. We see in Rev. 14, "A white cloud, and upon that cloud one like unto the Son of man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle." The final stroke may be seen in chapters 18, 19, 20.

But is there no hope for the world? Can not the wisdom of man evolve a solution? He boasts of solving all other problems, that he has led the world out of the dim darkness of tallow candles and oil lamps to the brilliant white light of electricity. Man boasts that he has brought pleasure thousands of miles distant by radio. He kinks his brows and flies as an eagle. He manipulates gold and silver. He builds and lives in common luxury heretofore unknown. When we view these accomplishments they are almost staggering, but instead of solving the world's most serious problem the whole world feels the clutch of something more fearful, for the figure itself is quite unable to present the actual condition. Why? The reason for it is man's heart.

All along with man's great success there are certain momental shames, and the greatest of these is he has failed to conquer himself. Viewing man in the light of God's Word, the least of all his rights is to boast what he has done for himself, morally or spiritually. It is difficult for the pride of man to admit the truth of it. Romans 3:10-18 gives us a true photograph of the human heart as God sees it. Make a brief examination. Verse 10 says there is none righteous, yet it can be admitted that many righteous men have lived. If God's Word is the standard, where is the world today? One righteous man—he cannot be found and never will be brought forth. From the pages of his-

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Religion and the World

BY THE EDITOR

German Church Leader Executed

According to RNS, Ernest Von Harnack, a German civil servant prior to the exaltation of Hitler, has been executed by the Gestapo, a report from Stockholm declares. Harnack was a prominent church leader of the Confessional group and was also associated with other prominent churchmen in Germany. His father was also regarded as one of Germany's leading theologians. There is no doubt about the spirit of antichrist seeking the overthrow of Christianty and the institution of military social religious technique and hero worship of the emperors.

—O—

Bible Shortage in Europe

The World Council of Churches, according to a report from the Geneva office, is now printing Bibles in several different languages to relieve the serious shortage of Scriptures on the continent. It is reported that in every European country, Bible stocks have reached a new low, because of governmental regulations and paper shortages. Italian editions are said to be exhausted, and Rumanian supply sufficient for not more than two months. Czechoslovakia has Bibles for about one year. German Bibles are reported scarce in Alsace. Many people now are like the rich man in hell, they are "tormented" and wish to get out; that is why there is a Bible shortage.

—O—

Whose Girls?

Dr. Thomas Parran, Surgeon-General of the U. S Public Health Service, reports: "In 1939, in the Regular U. S. Army (pre-mobilization), the syphilis rate was 14 per 1,000. The gonorrhea rate was 27.7. Since that time the Army's ranks have been swollen by almost 2,000,000 new men, an almost eightfold increase. Mind you, all the new men were free of venereal sickness. For a short while, because of this vast dilution, the venereal disease rate had to go down. But, alas, it did not stay down. Now . . . the gonorrhea rate has shot up from 27.7 to 40.3. And the syphilis rate is rapidly climbing back up to the pre-mobilization rate, though no tainted ones were taken in with the draft."

And if you are tempted to inquire "How come?" read this, from the report of the National Advisory Police Committee on Social Protection, headed by Mr. Charles P. Taft: "A high percentage of infections to the armed forces have been traced to girls in their early teens. Motivated by a misguided sense of patriotism, they have been found in some sections giving themselves freely to men in uniform. Within a short time they will become infected and transmit venereal disease to others. These girls usually frequent dance halls, amusement parks and cheap beer joints." —Quoted from the *New York Times* for Dec. 27, 1942.

—O—

Dead Sea Poem Is Revised

At least two poetically inclined readers accepted the challenge of the January 15 *Now* to revise the poem on the Dead Sea.

The first was Mrs. Olive H. Spencer of Long Beach, California.

Her poem entitled, "The Modern Joseph" is as follows:

The Dead Sea lay shining in the desert sand,
Man called the sea a hoarder—did not understand
That God was storing riches in its salty strand.

Men read of Canaan's wealth with doubting head,
The hills were cobble strewn, the sea was dead,
Whence then could come the wealth the Bible said?

As Joseph went to Egypt to give his brethren food,
So Lake Asphaltis gathered with an aptitude
That none then living even guessed or understood;

And safely stored in waters acrid still,
The wealth of Canaan grew and grew until
The Jew began to go back with a will.

Then, like a freely opened treasure sack,
Like Joseph giving hungry brethren back
Their gold and food, that they should see no lack:

The Dead Sea offers now its wealth untold
So vast and rich that the world's minted gold
Could never buy the wealth its waters hold.

And now in wonder, men look with amaze,
Tremendous wealth now opens to their gaze;
Oh, may they offer up to God their praise!

There is ample room for serious thought on that comparison of the histories of Joseph and of the Dead Sea!

Joseph was raised from prison cell to palace throne in time to minister Egypt's hoarded golden grain when his needy brethren came into the land (Genesis 41 to 50).

The Dead Sea changed from a monstrous hoarder to a lavish giver as needy Jews entered the land from various countries in which they were persecuted or despised.

It is true the Jews entered the land in unbelief. But did not Joseph's brethren go to him in utter ignorance of their relationship to him, on their first and second journey?

Think it over, ye lovers of the land and the Book! Is there not deep significance to the Dead Sea's generosity at this psychological moment?

The second poem comes from Harriet B. Davies of Scranton, Penn. It is captioned: "A Christian Challenge and an Apology to the Dead Sea."—*Now.*

—O—

A Help in Trouble

But "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

Regardless of the nature of the trouble, "God is a very present Help" in it.

The thief at Calvary was in the throes of soul trouble and out of a deep consciousness of his guilt, called upon the Lord, who at that very time was on the cross for our sins. He answered him immediately and promised him "Paradise"—to which he went that very day (Luke 23:39-43).

Everybody has trouble of some kind—consider the following:

Abraham had land trouble (Genesis 13:1-18).

Jacob had business trouble (Genesis 31:36-42).

Joseph had rationing trouble (Genesis 41:46-57).

Moses had inferiority-complex trouble (Exodus 4:10-16).

Samson had romantic trouble (Judges 16:4-31).

David had "in-law" trouble (1 Samuel 18:12-23).

Solomon had marital trouble (Nehemiah 13:26).

Hezekiah had physical trouble (2 Kings 20:1-7).

Jehoshapat had military trouble (2 Chronicles 18:1-31).

Mordecai had anti-semitic trouble (Esther 4:1-17).

Job had satanic trouble (Job 1:16-22).

Baruch had personal-ambition trouble (Jeremiah 45:1-5).

Jonah had undersea trouble (Jonah 2:1-10).

Peter had overconfidence trouble (Mark 14:27-72).

Thomas had skeptic trouble (John 20:24-31).

Paul had multiple trouble (2 Corinthians 11:23-28).

But the Lord delivered them out of them all (Psalm 34:17).

Has He not said: "Call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me" (Psalm 50:15)?

If this is your "day of trouble" why not call upon Him, and find Him "a very present help in trouble."

"When trouble like a gloomy cloud
Has gathered thick and thundered loud,
He near my soul has ever stood,
His loving kindness, O how good!"
—*Now.*

Beer drinking has increased sixty per cent in the three years of war. Spirits, domestic and imported, have increased twenty-five per cent.

"DOTH GOD CARE FOR OXEN?"

1 Cor. 9:9

By JAMES O. CAMPBELL

THIS is a very peculiar question to ask, and yet there must be an objective. Since the Father is so vitally concerned about His creatures that "not a sparrow falleth to the ground" beyond His notice, surely He cares for oxen. But is that the picture that God would have us see, as we proceed with the lesson? The answer will unfold itself to us by careful study.

Let us notice the parable lesson before us. Paul goes about in a way of defending his apostleship. "Am not I an apostle? Am not I free? Have not I seen the Lord? Am not I free to get married?" etc. With these and other questions, he paves the way for the text.

"For it is written in the law of Moses, Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen?"

Let us notice the picture:

Paul and Barnabas had labored faithfully among the church at Corinth. They had planted a spiritual vineyard and fed a spiritual flock. Now said Paul, "Who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges? who planteth a vineyard and eateth not of the fruit thereof? or who feedeth a flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock? Say I these things as a man? or saith not the law also?" In other words, are we asking questions or does the Scripture bear it out? The text is the answer. "Saith he it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, it was written." The old ox had worked hard in threshing out the wheat and who would dare keep him from getting his share of the harvest. Faithful Paul had labored with the Corinthians. Now he must not be muzzled. How can God's man be muzzled today?

1. By Depreciation.

There are those who contend that the preacher of the gospel isn't any more than any other man. But from the Biblical side, a God-appointed and God-anointed preacher is an asset to any church or community. God, give us more Spirit-filled leaders, I pray. Sometimes I am made to wonder at God's mercy being extended to those who criticize the minister today. In times gone by they have been smitten in various ways.

2. Failure to Cooperate.

Sometimes the minister is unduly criticized before he gets to the next town and it makes it very difficult for him to have the cooperation that should be given him. Then sometimes the church fails to understand that their new pastor is trying to promote the cause of Christ, and they are very slow to work together with him. Or probably the evangelistic service is hindered for some cause or other, and the evangelist has a hard pull of it, to have a revival. It takes cooperation to make any ministry a success.

3. Going on a "Sit-down Strike."

Sometimes God's servant has to preach to a valley of bones that are very dry. No hallelujahs or amens. Try boosting your minister, instead of backbiting him. Pray for him and bid him Godspeed, if he lives good and preaches the truth. All ministers like compliments, occasionally. Tell your minister his faults personally and he will appreciate it.

We now come to the financial side of the question. Would you mind, my fellow Christian, if I tell you that I love you with the deepest Christian love? Surely you won't. Let me ask

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THE PROMISED MESSIAH

Mark 1:1-10; Acts 1 and 2.

W. L. HUDLOW, SR.

WHEN we come to the New Testament we find it opening with the great events that all the prophets have announced. The real theme of the Bible is Christ. Everything in the Old Testament points to His coming. The Messiah was promised in Gen. 3:15. As soon as man sinned, he needed a Savior to redeem him. All the rest of the Old Testament tells how God fulfilled these first promises in the Scripture.

You remember that during the flood, God saved one family through whom the Messiah should come. Then God spoke to Abraham and told him that He wanted him to be the father of a great nation from whom the Messiah should be born. This is the second time God definitely announced the coming Redeemer. The prophets kept telling of this Savior. They told us He was to be born of a virgin in the city of Bethlehem. They tell of His living in Palestine, of His ministry, His betrayal and crucifixion. Even the very words on the cross have been recorded, and His resurrection and ascension.

We see all of these things told many years before His actual appearance on the earth. The Old Testament is just the introduction of the New Testament. The very opening verses of the Book of Matthew take us back to the Old Testament. The Old Testament gives us the history of the Jewish people, the Messianic nation. Jewish women, many of them, expected the Savior to be born of a Jewish woman. However, they expected Him to be born of a royal family of great prominence, but He was born of very humble parentage, and the New Testament gives us the life and teaching of the Messiah who was the great central figure of the Old Testament.

Look at the opening words of the Book of Matthew, the book of the genealogies of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham. Genesis 12:1-3. This Jesus was no other than the one of whom the law and the prophets had spoken. God had emphasized one fact upon the Jewish mind from the very beginning of their history. Here it is: they were a divinely-chosen people set apart to be the nation through whom the Messiah should come. So when Jesus came He was the fulfillment of the Messianic prophecy. He came to the people to whom the prophecies of the Old Testament were given. Over a hundred times Matthew refers to the Old Testament and proves to us that Jesus fulfilled the prophetical scriptures. We see the words over and over again that it would be fulfilled. Jesus was in the beginning with the Father. See Philippians 2:5-8; John 1:1; Colossians 1:16.17; Heb. 1:2. Jesus Christ came to this earth that He might show us the love of God. Just think, the birth of Christ changed the calendar of the world. Everything is dated B. C. or A. D. The Book of Galatians says that when the fullness of the time was come, Jesus was born, Gal. 4:4, the promised Savior.

After the captivity of Israel in Babylon, they were scattered everywhere under Alexander and the rulers that succeeded him, and had carried the knowledge of God to all nations. The world was better prepared for the coming of Christ. Many heathens had discarded their false religions and were longing for a Savior. The Greek language had been made quite universal by Alexander the Great. This was the language in which the New Testament was written. The New Testament recorded the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, the coming of the Spirit, the Church in Jerusalem, the Church extended to the Gentiles, the Church in all the world. The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John tell us of the life and the ministry of our Lord here on earth. There was a great promise that Christ made to His disciples while He was here, that He would

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REPORTS

Sylacauga, Ala., District Convention

Our Sylacauga district convention was a great success. All of our churches were over the top one hundred per cent on all quotas. We had fine services. The orphanage offering was $27; mission offering $234, not counting the quotas from the churches, and more that our church here in Sylacauga will send in later. The total will go over $600 for the district, with only seven churches and one of them not very active. God is blessing us here. We started a revival Easter Sunday, Brother R. T. Lankford doing the preaching. Pray for us.—J. A. Bixler, Box 47, Sylacauga district pastor.

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Paris, Texas, District Convention

The Paris district convention convened in Paris, Texas, March 26-28. Rev. T. W. Godwin, state overseer, was in charge. He brought a wonderful message Saturday night. Each message was freighted with the power and love of God. Our offerings were far beyond anything that has been done previously on this district or any other district in the State of Texas. The mission offering was $257.56; the orphanage offering was $306.86. The cooperation and unity on the district is wonderful and we praise the Lord for that.

Visiting ministers included Rev. and Mrs. S. J. Wood, overseer of Colorado and Utah; Instructor Albert Hall from an Army Air Base in Colorado; Sister T. W. Godwin, state L.W.W.B. president; Rev. H. D. Statum, of Selman City district; Rev. Jack Gilbert, of Sulphur Springs district; Rev. J. C. Thompson, of Dallas district; Rev. Clay, of Freedom, and numerous other visitors who we are unable to mention. Crowds were extra large.

Soldiers from Camp Maxey who attend our services did their part to help make the convention the success it was. They are an inspiration to any congregation.

At the close of the convention our revival began, conducted by Rev. H. D. Statum. Everyone enjoyed his good messages. Ten were saved, two sanctified and one reclaimed to the Holy Ghost. We ask an interest in the prayers of all the Church.—Rev. L. A. Baker, district pastor.

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Houston District Y.P.E. and Sunday School Convention

The Houston district Y.P.E. and Sunday School convention convened at Port Arthur, April 16-18, with Brother G. E. Weatherby, state superintendent, in charge. In spite of the rainy weather the house was packed with a goodly number from Houston No. 1, Houston No. 2, Big Thicket, and Texla, churches on the district. God wonderfully blessed throughout the entire convention. The sweetest fellowship was felt and the power and presence of God was real. That is the main reason that our mission and orphanage offering were so good. The mission offering was $160, compared with $155 last year. I do not have the exact figures on the cash orphanage offering, but to my best knowledge it was around $175, compared with $52 last year. The total mission and orphanage offerings, including the merchandise, was $405.21. The speakers on the program were Brother Jimmie Mitchell, pastor, Houston No. 2; Brother H. M. Glover, Big Thicket; Brother Essel Gibson, Texla; Brother Myers from Paris, Texas; Sister Flemming, Houston; Sister Ruth Ainsworth, Houston; Sister Smith, Texla; myself, and Brother W. F. Ainsworth, our district overseer, Houston No. 1. Pray for us down here on the coast.—L. C. Pennington.

TESTIMONIES

The Lord Has Surely Been With Us

Dear saints of God, I feel so impressed to write to the Evangel. My heart is so heavy and I am burdened down because of this awful war. I am the widow of a World War No. 1 veteran, with six children. My older son is now inducted into the Army. Oh, how it grieves my heart to have to give him up this way. He is unsaved and may have to die for his country and our freedom the same as his daddy did. His father served in World War No. 1 in 1918-19 and never regained his health. Our Savior called him home from his long suffering May 15, 1934, and little did we ever think when this son was born into our home in 1923 that there would be a World War No. 2 for him to serve in. But I really thank God this morning for His goodness and mercy toward us, for He surely has been with us.

God has intrusted me with this boy for over nineteen years and I have done the best I could by him to bring him up in the way of righteousness and I trusted God to help me with my family. I realized the great responsibility it was in those trying times. I often think that he may travel the same territory and be on the same battlefield that his father fought through in 1918-19. I am begging now that every prayerful heart join me in prayer that God will bless and take care of my boy and, should it be God's will to call him from the battlefield, to save his soul. I know He can save him wherever he is, that we will be undivided around the great throne of God.

Please pray for my other children who are unsaved. I have served the Lord nearly sixteen years. I am saved, sanctified and baptized with the Holy Ghost. I join Brother Yow in prayer every day at eleven o'clock that God will take care of our boys, that He will hover them under the shadow of His wing and shield and protect them from all harm and danger, as the song, "Dear God, watch o'er my boy in service; help him win the victory, and when this cruel war is over, bring him safely home to me." Pray that I will be faithful to the end. I just can't but believe that the prayers I have prayed and the tears I have shed will not be in vain when we have gone the last mile of the way. Pray for my father to be saved. I will appreciate encouragement from anyone who knows our Savior. I mean to press on till Jesus says it is finished.—Mrs. Grace Jones, Whiteside, Tenn.

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In Appreciation

FORT BRAGG, N. C.—Dear saints who have prayed for the healing of my body, I certainly thank you and praise God for you and your prayers, also those of you who have written me letters. I'm glad I am serving a prayer-answering God. I am not well yet, folks, but I am lots better than I was and I am looking for God to completely heal me. So pray with me, and not for me alone, but all the soldiers. There is quite a lot of sickness in the army. Pray not only for the healing of their bodies, but for their souls also.—John H. Eagerton, Med. Det. Dept., Sta. Camp Hosp. No 2.

REVIVALS

HODGENVILLE, Ky.—We are glad to report a two weeks' revival which came to a close Sunday night, March 28. The power of God met with us in every service; the people were slain under the power of God. Old-time conviction swept through the house most every night and the altar was full.

We are glad to say the Church of God is on the firing line for God and many others are looking this way. We have thirty-four members at the present time. This is a young church, but it is on the mountain top for God.

Three were saved and one filled with the Holy Ghost.

We have our district mission offering and the district orphanage offering, for which we thank God. We have a good Sunday School and Y.P.E. and have organized an L.W.W.B. We are glad to say that all departments of the church are working here. Pray for us. Our church is located on Depot Street.—Evangelist G. R. Morris and party.

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It was our happy privilege to have a glorious meeting at the Eastside Church of God. From the very first God was with us and we surely felt His mighty presence throughout the four weeks' meeting. We do not know where one would go to find better coworkers than Brother and Sister Heaston and their people. They have such a sweet humble spirit and God is blessing their ministry.

The little church on Crane Street is surely coming to the front in every department of the work. All one has to do is just pay them a visit and you will see at once how God is blessing. While we were there the Sunday School broke the all-time record, reaching seventy-eight. Now their goal is one hundred in Sunday School and everyone on time. They are not slack in tithing and giving either, and every week while we were there they averaged $30 in offerings. They are doing some remodeling now and some

(Continued on page 7)

REQUESTS FOR PRAYER

We receive many requests for the salvation of relatives, loved ones, and friends, also for urgent unspoken requests. There are so many of these it is impossible to publish them, but we ask that all take them to heart and earnestly pray that the Lord will answer prayer in their behalf. In order for requests to be published they must be signed.

PRAY FOR

The healing of my mother, Mrs. J. E. Edenfield, who has been suffering for quite a while with rheumatism.—Mrs. Reita Moxley, Swainsboro, Ga.

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My mother, Clara Johnson, who has ulcerated stomach.—Mrs. Gussie Reed, 615 Germantown St., Dayton, Ohio.

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The healing of my body, I have had the flu and can't seem to get over it. —Mrs. E. V. Williams, Rt. 1, Middlesboro, Ky.

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The healing of my body, I am sick; urgent unspoken request.—F. E. Burrow, Poyen, Ark.

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God to undertake for my husband and home.—Maude Skinner, 666 Talleyrand Ave., Jacksonville, Fla.

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The Lord to heal me of T. B. I can't live long unless He undertakes.—Mrs. Bart Williams, Rt. 2, Good Water, Ala.

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God to undertake for our dear daughter, Geraldine Chitwood. To those who know her, please speak a word of encouragement to her. We need something we haven't had—encouragement.—Brokenhearted father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. D. P. Chitwood, West Gastonia, N. C.

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An earnest prayer for me.—Pvt. Ellis Pierce, Arcadia, Calif.

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The healing of my body; my husband.—Mrs. George Gouger, Whiteside, Tenn.

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The healing of my body, I have sugar diabetes, high blood pressure and other ailments; my daughter who has high blood pressure.—Mrs. Ellen Rackley, Shannon, Ga.

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My healing, my lung is about to kill me.—M. A. Tate, East Beckley, W. Va.

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My healing; my little girl's healing. —Nellie Jernigan, Hornsby, Tenn.

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My son in the army who is very sick and unsaved.—Mrs. M. A. Craze, Whiteside, Tenn.

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The healing of my body, I have stomach trouble and nervousness.—Mrs. Oscar Miller, Newport, Tenn.

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My little boy who is ruptured; me to be healed of low blood pressure and heart trouble.—Cara Endfinger, Pell City, Ala.

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Me to be healed and saved.—Mrs. Hamness, 1237 Perry St., Helena, Ark.

DEATHS

HAZELLIEF

Sister Emma Merintha Hazellief departed this life April 8, 1943; age ninety-one years. She was a charter member of the Church of God at Bassinger, Fla. She had been a faithful member of the Church for thirty-two years.—R. R. Holland, pastor, Okeechobee, Fla.

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JOHNSON

Kathren Phyllis Johnson, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Johnson, was born December 28, 1942, and passed away to be with Jesus at the age of one day.—Eliza Mays, Bristol, Tenn.

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DUNCAN

Sue Duncan, age eight years, passed away on March 17, 1943, at Billings, Mont. She was saved last summer and was a faithful attendant of Sunday School and church.—Her pastor, Rev. Clarence Savchenko.

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RALPH

Fred O. Ralph, Pittsburg, Kan., passed away April 4, 1943; age twenty-five years. His father, Frank Ralph, who was a faithful member of the Church of God here, died in September, 1939. The Ralph family has a large and influential standing among the church and outsiders here.—Rev. W. C. Howard, pastor.

BAKER

Dear Sister Susie Baker, a true and faithful member of the Clay City, Ky., Church of God, was born November 2, 1896, and went home to be with Jesus April 2, 1943. Pray for her unsaved family, three sons in service.—Mrs. Hermon Begley, Walterville, Ky.

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HAMILTON

Sister Alice Smith Hamilton, mother of Rev. John W. Hamilton, went to be with Jesus April 16, 1943; age seventy-four years, eight months and fourteen days. She was a member of the Church of God at Harris, Ky.—Her pastor, Rev. James Duff, Harris, Ky.

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GRAVES

William Alton Graves, son of the late Rev. P. F. Graves, departed this life April 16, 1943; age thirty-two years. He professed faith in Christ about two months before his departure.—His aunt, Emma Warix, Rt. 1, Troy, Tenn.

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SMITH

Sister Lalla O. Thella Smith, wife of Rev. W. Frank Smith, passed away to be with Jesus; age forty-four years. She was a loyal member of the Church of God seventeen years, having transferred her membership from Greenville to Woodruff, S. C., just a few days before she died.—W. C. Hendrix, Woodruff, S. C.

DOTH GOD CARE FOR OXEN?

(Continued from page 5)

you, do you love our Lord and Savior? I hear you say, "Yes, with all my heart." Well, we will now read verse 11: "If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we reap your carnal things?" Christ said, "The labourer is worthy of his hire." Verse 14. "Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel." Surely God cares for oxen (preachers) enough to have His bride take care of them until He returns for His own. Doth God take care for oxen? Most certainly He does.

Will The Church of God Escape the Great Tribulation?

(Continued from page 1)

tured saints as twenty-four elders. Proof: the word said that they were redeemed by His blood out of every kindred, tongue, people, and nation; and that there are more than twenty-four different nationalities none will try to deny.

Rev. 5:10 states, "And hast made us . . . kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth."

OUR FUTURE PLACE

Who are the kings and priests who will reign on the earth but the saints redeemed by His blood? Compare Rev. 20:4, "And they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years."

In bringing this message to a close, we believe we have given enough proof to quiet every anxious soul wondering about the future of the saints of God. Trust in the Lord and He will deliver us from the snare of the fowler.

Yes, those of the Church that are worthy to escape will escape the tribulation.

REVIVALS

(Continued from page 6)

day, we hope very soon, they will have a real nice church. Pray that the love and fellowship that now abides in their midst will continue until Jesus comes.

We also say that Findlay is coming behind in no good thing. Under the efficient leadership of two of the most consecrated workers we have ever met, Rev. and Mrs. D. G. Phillips, they are pressing the battle for Jesus. Their church is coming good and God is surely with them. God is giving Brother Phillips the courage to preach the old-time gospel in its fullness. They have a splendid radio broadcast and it surely is wonderful how God has blessed them in obtaining the money to put the program over and also a wonderful opportunity to spread the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. It was a blessing to be with them in a four weeks' meeting in January and February. God blessed and I am sure they desire your prayers that God will bless every effort.—Rev. and Mrs. Edward Kustel, evangelists.

The Bible is God's last will and testament to man, and if man rejects it he rejects God's offer of mercy and salvation and will be a victim in eternity of his own negligence.

THE FACT OF IT

(Continued from page 3)

tory we have our Socrates, Shakespeares, Edisons and many more, but where is the world's one righteous man? There isn't one. But God has some holy righteous men, for He said, "Be ye holy for I am holy."

The fairness of this demand can be understood when we see that God's standard of righteousness is entirely different from the natural man's standard. But what is God's standard? The answer is "Christ." But the divine standard is rejected by the world system today and such an attitude of rejection is reflected in a new history of the world. In the first chapter, on the origin of things, a creative God is completely ignored. Nothing made something out of nothing seems to be accepted philosophy. Many today are living yet shrouded in darkness. No outlook, no hope; there has been little explanation in righteousness nor can there ever be until the individual comes under the imputed righteousness of Christ and has received a new nature. 2 Cor. 4:22-25. We again affirm that the root of the world's nightmare is man's own heart. Their throat is an open sepulcher. With their tongues they have used deceit. The poison of an asp is under their lips, whose mouth is full of cursings and bitterness. Rom. 3:12-14. A man once said, "It's too bad that most of us never learn how to live until it's time to die, when the grave claims our body." It's the lauguage of the Holy Ghost and not the philosophy of religious fanatics, but the verdict of God. There was a time when man's word was negotiable; now it must be backed by gold and silver to be negotiable. Why has man failed? Rom. 1:31. The natural heart is a covenant-breaker. From what do you wish to save your virgin daughter? Why do you lock the doors at night? Because the natural heart produces the fruits of the flesh. Gal. 5:19-21. A Christian worker once gave this picture of a human heart to a fine Christian woman who had never seen it before. A fire of resentment flashed forth from her eyes. An explanation followed. The pride of the flesh resents the true revelation of the heart. However, we must accept the Word of God for the truth of it. Jer. 17:9 tells us the heart is deceitful and wicked. We then conclude that the human heart backed by powers of darkness is responsible for the world's nightmare.

May God help us to claim His grace and Spirit, to be endowed with enough of His divine nature to show forth enough of His present glory to break the spell of indifference and give to those blinded in these dark hours the pure light of God's Word to help break the influenced chain that holds us to a traditional past, that the world today may have victory in Jesus as God declared in Isaiah 9:6, 7.

THE PROMISED MESSIAH

(Continued from page 5)

send the Holy Ghost to be their comforter, teacher and guide. Acts 1:8. After Pentecost, Acts 2, after the Holy Ghost came, they were commanded to go into all the world and preach the gospel—in Judea, Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the world. You remember how bold Peter was again for the salvation of the world, after Pentecost. How marvelous the Lord blessed in the new church. More than three thousand souls were added to the church in one day.

At first they only met in Jerusalem, but after the stoning of Stephen to death they were scattered and carried to other nations. Read Acts 10th chapter, how the Lord taught Peter that this Gospel was for all the world. Paul says: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth, to the Jew first and also to the Greek." Rom. 1:16.

Philip, the deacon, was driven from Jerusalem by persecution that followed the stoning of Stephen. He came to Samaria and preached Jesus and many believed. Acts 8. Philip had a big revival in Samaria, and the Lord spake to him and said, "Go to Gaza, which is a desert." Philip obeyed the Lord and went. On seeing a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch, a man of great authority, then the Spirit said unto Philip, "Go near and join thyself to this chariot." The eunuch was reading the Prophet Esaias and Philip taught him and when they came near the water the eunuch asked Philip to baptize him. Philip baptized him, and the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away.

The Lord called Saul to bear the gospel to the Gentiles. Saul was on his way to Damascus with letters of authority to arrest and bind all he found worshipping in the name of the Lord Jesus. And the Lord struck Saul down, and he cried, "Lord, Lord, what wilt thou have me do?" Jesus said, "Why persecutest thou me?" Saul accepted the Lord, and He changed his name to Paul and called him as a missionary. So the Apostle Paul's ministry was in Antioch. Antioch started Paul and Barnabas out as missionaries to the whole world. Paul made three great missionary journeys and finally came to Rome. He not only preached the gospel in Asia where he received the vision of the Macedonian cry, saying, "Come over and help us," Acts 16:9, but he also led the party across the sea. Thus the gospel messengers came to Europe. On Paul's last trip to Jerusalem he was arrested and sent to Caesarea, where he was a prisoner for two years. He appealed to Caesar and was sent to Rome as a prisoner. It was here in imprisonment that he wrote the Epistles to the Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon. At the end of his imprisonment he was confined to the dungeon. There as an old man he wrote his last letter, the Second Epistle to his beloved Timothy. This was about A. D. 68. Soon after this he was martyred under Nero. Paul's influence still lives on. His letters reveal the greatest truths about the coming Christ.

The Church today is waiting for the second coming of our Lord and Master. Then there will be a new heaven and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness. Christ will hand over the kingdom to the Father, that He may be all in all. Even so come, Lord Jesus. Rev. 22:20.

South Eleuthera District Convention

Our district convention convened at the Church of God at Rock Island, April 2-4. We had delegates from the various churches, also our esteemed overseer, Brother W. R. Franks. There was a good crowd; the church was full and crowds standing outside. There were testimonies and handshakes and the presence and power of God was there. The message was given in demonstrations of the Spirit and with power. On Thursday night the Y.P.E. gave a program. This work has just been started lately and Brother Franks thinks it is the best he has seen. It is progressing splendidly under the leadership of Brother Elisha Pyfrom, who is a very talented young man. We have bought a piano and we feel very proud to say that as we are the first aside from Nassau to have a piano in our Y.P.E. This is a great work among our young people and we ask you to help us pray.

Friday night there was a good delegation of ministers and members from the various churches in the district. Sister Mispah brought the welcome address, which was responded to by various pastors of the district. Everyone was made to feel welcome to Rock Sound. Brother E. A. Sands, our district overseer, had a well-balanced program. We enjoyed a message by Brother Simmus. On Saturday the spiritual tide ran high and the power of the Lord fell and the saints shouted. My, it was a wonderful day. That deep spiritual feeling was ever present. Sunday was the greatest day of all. Five churches are in the district and they were all ably represented.

My, how those hungry hearts would drink in those precious words of life. God was with us in a great way. Four souls were definitely blessed and testified to this. It would be impossible to tell all that took place at this convention, but we ask you to pray for us, for we are determined to go forward.—Sister Florence Sands.

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